

### **REMARKS**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-18 are now present in the application. Claims 1 and 6-9 have been amended. Claims 1, 3, 5, 10 and 16-18 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

#### **Allowable Subject Matter**

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2-5 and 10-18 are allowed. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

#### **Information Disclosure Citation**

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 2, 2007, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form filed therewith.

Applicants have also submitted the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 25, 2007 for consideration by the Examiner. The Examiner is courteously requested to provide Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form filed therewith with the next official communication.

#### **Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1 and 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshihiko, JP 03-049293. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

In light of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Without conceding to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the application, as the Examiner will note, independent claim 1 has been amended.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite "filling a solder resist or resin in a via hole or a through hole between two adjacent circuit patterns by moving a squeegee to directly contact an upper surface of at least one of the two adjacent circuit patterns." Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of steps set forth in amended independent claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested by the references relied on by the Examiner.

Yoshihiko discloses a printing device for printing a circuit board. In particular, Yoshihiko in FIGs. 1-4 and its abstract discloses moving a squeegee 5 forward and backward on the screen 3 so that the circuit patterns 1a can be coated by the resist 4a passing through the screen 3. However, as shown in FIGs. 1-4 of Yoshihiko, the squeegee 5 fails to *directly contact* an upper surface of the circuit pattern 1a. In fact, the screen 3 is located between the squeegee 5 and the upper surface of the circuit patterns 1a so that the squeegee 5 cannot be in direct contact with the upper surface of the circuit patterns 1a. Therefore, Yoshihiko fails to teach "filling a solder resist or resin in a via hole or a through hole between two adjacent circuit patterns by moving a squeegee to *directly contact* an upper surface of at least one of the two adjacent circuit patterns" as recited in claim 1.

In addition, although Yoshihiko discloses filling the resist 4a in a space between two circuit patterns 1a, Yoshihiko nowhere discloses that the resist 4a is filled into a via hole or a

through hole between two adjacent circuit patterns 1a. Therefore, Yoshihiko also fails to teach “filling a solder resist or resin in a *via hole or a through hole between two adjacent circuit patterns* by moving a squeegee to *directly contact* an upper surface of at least one of the two adjacent circuit patterns” as recited in claim 1.

Since Yoshihiko fails to teach each and every recitation of amended independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 1 and its dependent claims (at least due to their dependency) clearly define the present invention over the reference relied on by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

### CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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